



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Metro Miami Action Plan Trust**

Office of the Metro Miami Action Plan Trust
19 West Flagler Street
Mezzanine Room 106
Miami, Florida 33128

October 15, 2008
As Advertised

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Board of County Commissioners

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OFFICIAL MINUTES
METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2008

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAP) convened a meeting at the Office of MMAP Trust Board Room, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine Room #106, on October 15, 2008 at 12:00 Noon, there being present: 1st Vice Chairperson Arthur J. Barnes; and Members: Mr. Herbert Robinson (Dr. Marzell Smith and Ms. Greicy Lovin were late) (Chairperson John T. Jones and Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite were absent).

ROLL CALL:

Staff members present were: Interim Executive Director John Dixon, Ms. Marlene Blanco, Ms. Melba Gasque, Mr. William Simmons, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Dr. Pamela Green, Mr. Eric Johnson, Assistant County Attorney Terrence Smith, and Deputy Clerk Karen Leonard.

MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA:

Vice Chairperson Barnes called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m. He noted that due to the lack of a quorum the Trust would discuss the information items. Vice Chairperson Barnes also noted items to be added to today's agenda: Memorandum of Approval (MOA) regarding Affiliated Agreement with Miami Dade County Public Schools as a Trust Information Items under Education Agenda Item IIA; Teen Court, under section Criminal Justice Agenda Item IIIA; and Legislative appointment of Executive Director to be added under Agenda Item B. 1.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

QUERY FOR EARLY DEPARTURES

Approval of Previous Minutes

(April 16, 2008, April 22, 2008, April 30, 2008, May 21, 2008, and June 18, 2008)

- I. Trust Action Items
 - A. Committee Action Items
 - 1. Housing
 - 2. Education
 - 3. Criminal Justice
 - 4. Community and Economic Development
 - 5. Legislative
 - 6. Budget
 - B. Additional Trust Action items
 - 1. **Sunset Review**
 - 2. **Nomination and Election of Chair Elect**
- II. Trust Information Items
 - A. Committee Information Items
 - 1. Housing
 - 2. Education

Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP staff was working with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) to coordinate the School-Based Referral Program in an effort to move the Teen Court process along. He added that the Teen Court process had started with Carol City Senior High

School and with the school system through student services. Mr. Mark Zaher, Director of School Operations/Special Programs also assisted to move that program into the traditional schools. Mr. Dixon spoke of the conference call meetings and MMAP staff's effort to communicate with the principal and assistant via correspondence and by phone. He noted that unknowingly, they were assigned to another school.

Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP staff was contacted by South Dade Senior High School representative who requested a meeting regarding the Teen Court Program. He added that MMAP's intent was to train participants from those schools through the program as jurors, attorneys, etc. to address the issue of violence in the schools. He further noted that during the training process, the parents had the option along with students to participate in the program and this would assist schools to address violence issues and increase Teen Court participation. Mr. Dixon noted that he anticipated the Teen Court program participation would increase around 500 following the first presentation to the County Commission in January 2009.

In response to Mr. Barnes' question regarding the number of schools listed, Mr. Dixon noted that initially there were twelve schools, but Central Senior High School responded that it would not participate. He added that five schools, including Central Senior High, were in jeopardy of closing if their FCAT scores did not improve, which currently was their focus. Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP's staff had contacted Dr. Holloway and would also contact Dr. Stinson's office to discuss a collaborative effort with MMAP's advocacy program that would help improve student's FCAT scores.

Discussion ensued regarding how well the programs operated at Carol City Senior High School

Discussion further ensued regarding students from Norland and Miami Edison senior high schools who participated in the program last summer. He noted the total amount of participants last summer was 150.

Further discussion ensued regarding the impact on the students of those schools that would be taken over by the State of Florida due to their inability to improve the FCAT exam scores and the process required to improve the scores.

Mr. Dixon noted that the principal of student services at Carol City Senior High was asked to be an advocate for the Teen Court program in order to influence other principals to be involved in the program.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding several programs available for the schools. During discussion, it was noted that unless the programs were beneficial, they would not be added to the list.

Further discussion ensued as to how those schools that were predominantly African American, were chosen. It was noted that the selection process was based on the school's previous performance.

Mr. Dixon noted that those schools were not only identified by MMAP, but were given to Mr. Mark Zaher, Director of School Operations/Special Programs.

3. Criminal Justice

A. Sarasota Teen Court

Mr. Dixon provided a brief overview of the Sarasota Teen Court In-Service Training and noted that Teen Court's staff visited the Sarasota Teen Court facility in an effort to gain more information on their operation. He spoke of the difference between MMAP's Teen Court program and Sarasota Teen Court's (STC) operational process. Mr. Dixon noted that (STC) had a shorter process for enrolling students in the program.

Mr. Williams added that STC functioned in the same capacity as MMAP except the program functioned one night a week rather than three. He also added STC was working with five high schools within the county, but direct referrals were provided through the police department for enrollment purposes. The STC program received cases that were misdemeanors or felonies because they had a program to address those students that did have major felonies, Mr. Williams noted.

Discussion ensued regarding the information obtained from the MMAP staff's visit to STC, which included a presentation on rape crisis, strict dress codes, and existing competitive services.

In response to Vice Chair Barnes' inquiry on efforts to collaborate with other entities, Mr. Williams noted that MMAP staff had already begun the process.

Mr. Barnes noted that as MMAP increased different schools' awareness of the Teen Court Program, the number of participants would increase.

Mr. Dixon noted he met with Mr. Zaher and expressed concern regarding poor planning that involved a number of schools.. He further noted he felt that once the schools that wanted to participate were identified, MMAP could work with at least 20 schools.

Discussion ensued regarding the projected number of participating students, estimated to be over 500 students.

Mr. Dixon noted that he met with Teen Court staff and discussed what was expected as well as what he thought was feasible, particularly as related to funding.

Later in the meeting, Ms. Lovin requested to review the discussion regarding Sarasota Teen Court.

In response to Ms. Lovin's comments regarding concern about the long process of going through JAC to recruit youth in the Teen Court program, Ms. Green noted MMAP staff would look into the referral system in order to become a direct referral and eliminate waiting for the JAC.

Ms. Lovin continued to express concern that MMAP was in the only county that had to go through the State Attorney's Office to recruit youth from the JAC.

4. Community and Economic Development

Mr. Dixon noted that \$330,000.00 was given to MMAP from the General Revenue Funds for economic development activities and it was documented in the Budget Book that those funds would be a supplement for the 8% funding that was received from the Beacon Council. He also noted that the County Attorney's Office was asked for an opinion regarding how those dollars

could be spent based on the language in the Budget Book.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted he explained to Mr. Dixon that the list was organized by category under the title "Economic Development" in the Budget Book, which covered a series of allocations from the General Revenue Funds that totaled \$330,000.00. He concurred with Mr. Dixon's comments that the funds had to be used for economic development activities. Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that funds were restricted to the State statutes and were subject to the same restrictions as the 8% business tax, but had different restrictions from the grant agreement MMAP had with the Beacon Council. He agreed that the current budget was more expansive than the 8% business tax funding.

Assistant County Attorney Smith concurred with Mr. Barnes regarding the MMAP's ability to redline its budget next year and noted that those funds made MMAP's budget whole this year. He noted the current budget was a trade off because MMAP lost the 8% business tax but received the \$330,000.00 from the General Revenue Funds, and had already been adopted into the budget.

In response to Mr. Dixon's comment regarding the discussion that the audit on MMAP was pending and once it was reviewed there was a possibility of reconsidering those funds, ACA Smith noted he had not identified any of those conditions passed by the County Commission. He also noted that Commissioner Jordan pulled her item because she was advised that the \$330,000.00 would make MMAP's budget whole.

Discussion ensued regarding how the funding should be used.

Vice Chair Barnes noted for the record that he would like the MMAP staff to develop a quarterly budget plan for those monies minus the salary for one position and to submit a report now and then on a quarterly basis. He also noted that MMAP's Economic Development Committee (EDC) met with Dr. Mann, who was part of the EDC as an advisory to discuss a proposal.

Mr. Dixon noted MMAP's staff had a brief in house meeting to discuss those plans and with approval of the Trust, a presentation would be made at the next MMAP Trust meeting.

Discussion further ensued regarding restrictions on using the \$330,000.00 funding.

Following further discussion, Mr. Robinson pointed out the importance of identifying how many jobs were created and homes made available by MMAP in order to identify the need for additional funding. He noted this funding, minus the salary of one position, would be approximately \$250,000.00 and needed to be spent strategically.

Mr. Gonzalez noted that the plans needed to include positions and the operational expenses.

Mr. Barnes added that a report should be provided to the County Commission.

5. Legislative
6. Budget

B. Additional Trust Information Items

Mr. Dixon provided a brief overview of the process used by the Selection Committee regarding nominating the Interim Director to the position of the Executive Director. He noted an item regarding the nomination was scheduled to go before the County Commission in August 2008. However, he noted, he was advised that the item was tabled based on the audit report and was duly slated to go on the County Commission Agenda on October 21, 2008. Mr. Dixon noted that later he was also advised that the item would not be on that agenda because the Board had concerns regarding the remaining membership of the Trust that had not been replaced.

Mr. Dixon noted that he would be sending an email to Mr. Jones suggesting that he contact the County Manager as well as the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

Discussion ensued among the Trust members regarding conflicting notations in the audit that needed to be settled in the final audit.

Further discussion ensued regarding how the vacant memberships in the Trust could impact nominating MMAP's Director.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that the Board of County Commission could choose another criterion at their discretion, but the decision was already made. He noted that the question would be whether the new Trust members would be given authority to override the decision on who was put in that position. Assistant County Attorney Smith noted if the Trust membership was changed completely, then the Trust could use its own discretion in terms of appointing an Executive Director. He continued advising the Trust members of the procedures required from the current ordinance regarding acceptance of the recommended MMAP Executive Director from the Selection Committee.

Attorney County Attorney Smith added that the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners had to appoint people to the nominating council in order to move the process forward.

Discussion ensued regarding the length of time needed before the County Commission Chairman appointed names to the nominating council and the need to contact him.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that the Chairpersons of the Trust and the Board of County Commissioners should work together along with MMAP staff to address this issue rather than Mr. Dixon. He also noted that the issue was now in the proper hands and should be handled in that manner in order to avoid any sunshine issues.

Later in the meeting, discussion ensued regarding the issue of nominating or electing a Chair Elect for the Trust.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted he had written a legal opinion noting that the ordinance did not recognize a Chair Elect, but would call for a Vice Chair.

Mr. Dixon noted that the MMAP Trust Chair asked that this item be put on a Board of County Commissioners' Agenda, but based on the by-laws the Trust did not have a position that met the requirement.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that an election had to be held, rather than an automatic move into the position.

Following discussion, Assistant County Attorney Smith advised the Trust members according to the By-Laws there must be an election of one other voting member as the chairperson, and another as a vice chairperson. He added that he understood that the By-Laws had to be consistent with the ordinance. Assistant County Attorney Smith suggested as in the written opinion, that the Trust member as well as MMAP staff, in conjunction with the County Attorney's Office review the By-Laws, since there were new changes to the ordinance. Assistant County Attorney Smith also suggested that Trust members wait until the new members were appointed before implementing new By-Laws, which would be appropriate in terms of the election.

After briefly reading a portion of the By-Laws, Assistant County Attorney Smith reiterated that he felt the By-Laws needed to be modified.

Discussion ensued regarding the process that was used in the past to appoint the MMAP chairperson.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that the current Trust members didn't have to wait for the new members, but they needed to take action soon. He added that he felt this would not violate any requirement of the ordinance, as long as the Trust went through an election cycle to elect the offices. The By-Laws allowed a second vice chair, which corresponded with the regulations of the ordinance that allowed an additional officer, noted Assistant County Attorney Smith. He added that during this process, the Trust members should review the By-Laws when the full Trust was appointed.

Vice Chairperson Barnes noted that the next Trust meeting notification would advise the members that an election of officers would be on the agenda.

Mr. Dixon asked the Trust members to review the Sunset Review and provide some feedback to Dr. Green.

- III. Executive Director's Action Items
- IV. Executive Director's Information Items

A. Lobbyist Registration Requirement/Unsolicited Proposals

Mr. Dixon noted that MMAP staff met in September with a representative that had information on research and development to make a presentation and was advised that in order to submit an unsolicited proposal there were certain requirements to register as a lobbyist.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted his concern that the MMAP staff understands the county process of unsolicited proposals and he sent the link to the Website to the Chairperson that would explain the requirements.

Ms. Lovin requested that the process in house be made clear to the MMAP staff whether individuals were soliciting over the telephone or came before the Trust.

Discussion further ensued regarding the need to have those county procedures clarified to MMAP staff.

Assistant County Attorney Smith expressed concern regarding individuals attempting to solicit without there being an opportunity given to competitors. He noted that the Trust members could listen, but should not give any input. Those individuals should be registered and gone through the County process, as well as listed on the Trust meeting agenda, Assistant County Attorney Smith noted.

Ms. Lovin noted the MMAP staff needed to be responsible for those procedures and receive an opinion from the County Attorney's Office before individuals could come before the Trust to present unsolicited proposals. She also noted that this item should be included in the agenda with a sign up list, and once an audit was performed on MMAP, that list would be available.

Assistant County Attorney Smith advised that if individuals came before the Trust to make a presentation should have other competitors present in order to comply with County regulations. He also advised that individuals who tried to solicit should be stopped.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to have a written procedure including a screening of individuals by MMAP's staff, Economic Development and Human Services Committee and then the Trust.

Assistant County Attorney Smith expressed concern regarding individuals that would attempt to solicit a project without going through the County process.

Ms. Lovin requested that steps to be taken by the MMAP staff be reviewed by the County Attorneys Office, and all individuals, including those who wished to speak at Trust meetings, should be screened in order to have a record for audit purposes.

Mr. Simmons requested clarification as to whether there was an ordinance that had certain requirements and whether the conditions indicated how to identify a lobbyist.

Discussion ensued regarding identifying a lobbyist when a proposal for funding was presented and the difference between others who may request to make a presentation before the Trust.

Further discussion ensued regarding the County requirements for people that wanted to solicit funding, which required a lobbyist registration.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted that individuals were considered lobbyists if requesting money with a proposal and should go through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. He referred to page 57 in the Agenda package that indicated the requirements.

B. Grant Activity Update (501C3)

Ms. Marlene Blanco gave a brief update on the grant activity and noted she had spoken with Ms. Terry Parker, who advised her that MMAP could apply for a grant if the agency was not a 501(C)(3) organization.

Mr. Dixon noted MMAP staff recently registered online at the Children's Trust Website

regarding grants, but the qualifications would have to be reviewed.

Discussion ensued regarding qualifications for certain grants, which varied due to the 501(C)(3).

C. MLK Academy Late Charge

Mr. Dixon noted a late charge payment was made in the month of August 2008 for the MLK Academy that totaled \$416.67. He reported all repairs were done and a sign off was completed through the County Attorney's Office.

Assistant County Attorney Smith noted an agreement was negotiated between the owner of MLK Academy facility and MMAP in lieu of the Trust approving allocation of monies to make repairs and once completed an agreement to release MMAP from any liability or additional repairs was signed. He also noted there were no pending claims against MMAP that he was aware of from MLK Academy.

D. Miami Football Classic 2008

Mr. Dixon gave a brief presentation regarding the Miami Football Classic (MFC) which featured a game between Savannah State College and Howard University. He noted MMAP staff was asked to participate in parking cars at that event and in doing so, anticipated proceeds would come to the Trust. He added that after expenses there was a minimum profit. Mr. Dixon also added that MMAP staff felt this could be a growing activity that the Trust could participate in the future.

Ms. Gasque noted that although the proposal was attached in the agenda package, MMAP did not provide any funding for the MFC 2008, and the staff just participated.

Mr. Dixon added that representatives of MFC expected to profit a lot from this event, but he thought that most of the tickets were given away.

Ms. Gasque noted she was uncertain about the number of participants, but the total gross amount profited from this event was \$1,197.00, which had to be divided between three (3) agencies.

Discussion ensued regarding MMAP staff's participation that resulted in good radio exposure, and regarding the Miami Football Classic 2009, which would be held at the new Florida International University stadium.

E. Housing Budget

Ms. Hicks reported that the remaining cash analysis for the Housing Budget as of September 2008, totaled \$1,205,360.04. She continued to review the report that was included in the MMAP Agenda package, which indicated the reserves totaled \$400,000 and net cash of uncommitted funds totaled \$480,360.04

F. Submittal to Commissioner Jordan

Mr. Dixon noted a letter from Chairperson Jones was submitted to Commissioner Jordan with attached documents that had a snapshot of the \$2.9 million disbursement by MMAP from 1997 – 2008. He also noted that this information was related to an ordinance Commissioner Jordan was sponsoring and Commissioners Gimenez and Sosa also requested information.

Mr. Dixon added that the Chief of Staff was given two boxes of documents regarding a response to the audit, but did not receive a response.

Vice Chair Barnes asked whether MMAP staff had quick access to the information needed and expressed concern that he had requested for a long period of time that the information be entered into a database.

G. Sailboat Cove Agreement Update

Ms. Hicks presented an update of Sailboat Cove agreement, which involved a development loan that totaled \$1 million that was due for payment. She noted the loan payment was due on October 1, 2008 and a default letter would be sent after the ten (10) day grace period. Ms. Hicks also noted that Sailboat Cove was not in a financial position to make payments. She continued to explain the process that MMAP's staff was working on to restructure the loan payment. Ms. Hicks noted that a letter from MMAP to Sailboat Cove was drafted and submitted to the County Attorney to be certified and forwarded to the Trust members tomorrow (10/16). She also noted MMAP staff would be meeting with the Office of Community Economic Development (OCED) to look at the terms of working with projects and a new structure of mortgage lending, and to review proposals. Ms. Hicks added that she anticipated that report would be ready by November 2008.

Discussion ensued regarding the report submitted by MMAP's staff consisting of the items discussed with OCED.

Following discussion, Assistant County Attorney Smith noted the process was being followed from the loan document, which indicated that a letter of notice requesting payment for the principal had to be sent.

Discussion ensued regarding the 39 closings that took place at Sailboat Cove and the status of the remaining units.

In response to Assistant County Attorney Smith's recommendation that the default letter be mailed, Ms. Hicks noted she could mail the default letter today (10/15) once it was certified.

H. Teen Court Monthly Report

I. Housing Monthly Report

Mr. Johnson gave a brief overview of the housing monthly report and noted the status of loans closing, including those that were pending. He continued to explain the use of funding reflected in the housing monthly report that coincided with the housing budget report.

Discussion ensued regarding both the housing monthly and housing budget reports.

Vice Chair Barnes noted that Mr. Johnson should provide a comprehensive list and incorporate the details into each report.

Ms. Lovin noted the information was already incorporated and there was no need to make additional reports.

Discussion ensued regarding sales prices of houses had decreased and underwriting credit issues

which made cases complicated.

Ms. Lovin pointed out that the major issue was related to the backend work and in terms of credit, the constituency needed to be educated.

Ms. Hicks reviewed the MMAP HAP program Chart in the agenda package on page 94, which reflected \$841,347.00 was provided by this program to assist applicants for housing.

Discussion further ensued regarding the need to report the percentage rate in the housing monthly report and regarding the highest percentage of loans being in the districts of Commissioners Barbara Jordan (District 1), Dorrin Rolle (District 2), and Audrey Edmonson (District 3).

In response to Vice Chair Barnes' inquiry regarding those Commissioners being notified by way of a report, Mr. Dixon requested MMAP staff to include the Commissioner's names by district in that report.

Mr. Dixon noted that the City of Homestead in District 9 had the highest number of foreclosures.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to have available a report on the number of foreclosures that occurred and how would it be beneficial to MMAP.

Ms. Hicks noted the issue was related to restrictions in doing short sales rather than foreclosures.

Following further discussion, Ms. Lovin commended the MMAP staff that worked on the Housing Assistance Program.

Ms. Lovin noted for the record her concern regarding the need to have user friendly software that would make the contract process easier for the public with the ability to access numbers for statistics for the new fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the MMAP Trust adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

Arthur J. Barnes, Vice Chairperson
Metro Miami Action Plan Trust



METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN

October 17, 2008

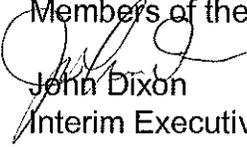
Prepared by: Nelson Diaz

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	10/17/2008		Memorandum from John Dixon-Interim Director Re: Affiliated Agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
2	10/17/2008		Memorandum from John Dixon-Interim Director Re: Sarasota Teen Court In-Service Training Report
3	10/17/2008		PowerPoint presentation titled <u>School-Based Referral Program</u>
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MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION

TO: Members of the MMAP Trust
FROM: 
John Dixon
Interim Executive Director
DATE: October 15, 2008
SUBJECT: Affiliated Agreement with Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Early this year we met with Miami-Dade County Public Schools regarding the Restorative Justice program for the school system. While the school system was considering the possibilities of Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust supplying this need for the county, we instituted the Teen Court concept at Miami Carol City Senior High to address the need for an alternative to suspension, expulsion and legal prosecution within the system. We wanted to expand our involvement in the school system but advised that MMAP would need an Affiliated Agreement between the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and MMAP to move forward.

In April, 2008 we completed the necessary documents for the Affiliated Agreement. It was our hope to get the approval before the 2008 – 2009 school year. We, however, were not advised an Affiliated Agreement is good for one school year. Each year a new agreement must be processed between the two parties.

September, 2008 we were advised by Mark Zaher, Director of School Operations/Special Programs, that he was holding a conference call with the twelve (12) schools on the Affiliated Agreement to notify them that we would be calling to schedule a meeting with them on Teen Court. The twelve (12) schools are:

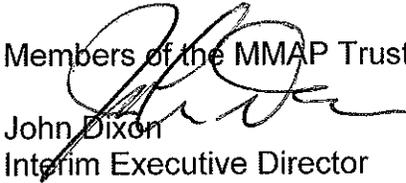
- Miami Carol City Senior High School
- Miami Edison Senior High School
- Booker T. Washington Senior High School
- Homestead Senior High School
- Miami Jackson Senior High School
- Miami Killian Senior High School
- North Miami Senior High School
- Miami Norland Senior High School
- Miami Northwestern Senior High School
- Miami Southridge Senior High School
- South Dade Senior High School

We are in the process of scheduling the meeting with the fore-mentioned schools.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION ITEM

TO: Members of the MMAP Trust

FROM: 
John Dixon
Interim Executive Director

DATE: October 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Sarasota Teen Court In-Service Training Report

PURPOSE OF ITEM

The purpose is to provide feedback to the Board of Miami-Dade County Teen Court (M-DCTC) regarding the division's training activities resulting from its visit to Teen Court of Sarasota.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Program Activities

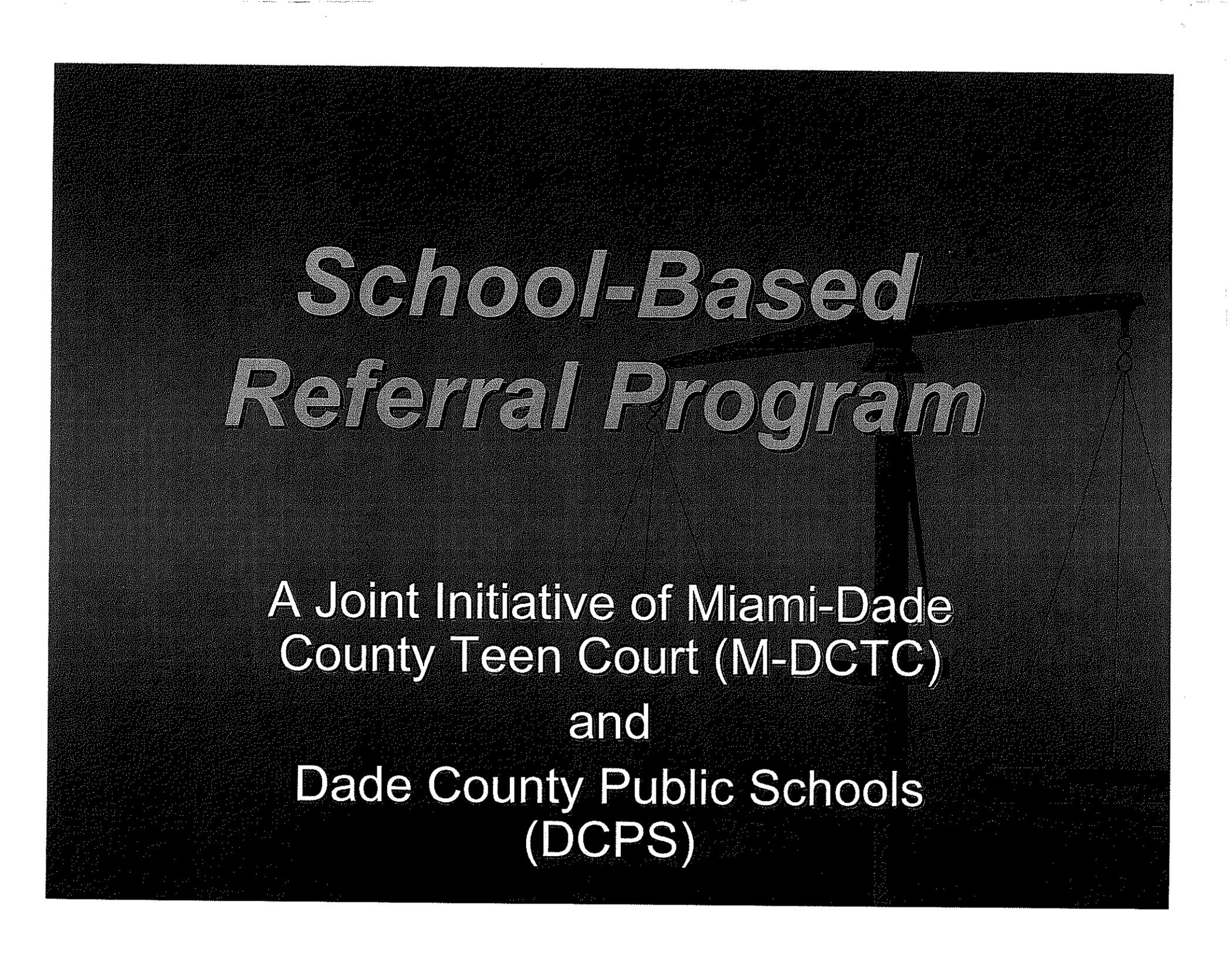
Anthony Williams, Division Director, along with LaVerne Carlile, Teen Court Administrator and Dr. Pamela Green, Psychological Services Coordinator participated in an in-service training held at Teen Court of Sarasota on October 8th and 9th 2008. Teen Court of Sarasota represents the birth place of Florida's first Teen Court. Since inception in 1988, there are fifty five Florida counties with operating Teen Courts.

October 8, 2008: The M-DCTC team met with Katie Self and staff at their office and later joined them at the Sarasota, Criminal Justice Center to view court proceedings. Each member of M-DCTC separately attended peer-jury trial hearings held in one of the three courtrooms. Dr. Green was also afforded an opportunity to view Sarasota's Peer Counseling component. During the evening, at least two cases were heard, per courtroom. Overall, it can be noted that M-DCTC and Sarasota's court process is very similar. An adult judge volunteered to preside over hearings in each of the three courtrooms, along with volunteer youth attorneys, bailiffs and clerks, from surrounding middle and high schools.

October 9, 2008: The M-DCTC team returned back to Teen Court of Sarasota office and continued the second and final day of the in-service training. Training on this day, entailed obtaining knowledge of the teen court process from origination of a case referral to closure—to include intake procedures, journaling and filing procedures as well as the creation and operation of database systems. As a result of participation in

this training, M-DCTC's knowledge base was enhanced, allowing for some components of Sarasota's court to possibly be integrated into the division's local operations. To this end, the following documents were also provided for review:

- A. Teen Attorney Introduction
- B. Volunteer Information Form
- C. Become a Teen Court Volunteer Information Packet
- D. Youth Cases for Youth Courts Desktop Guide: A Guide to the Typical Offenses Handled by Youth Courts
- E. Sarasota Intake Packet for Defendants
- F. Giving Back: A Community Service-Learning Manual for Youth Courts
- G. Nation Youth Court Month Planning and Action Guide
- H. In-Service Training Guide
- I. Teen Court Newsletter

A pair of scales of justice is visible in the background, positioned on the right side of the slide. The scales are dark and appear to be made of wood or metal, with a horizontal beam and two hanging pans. The background is a dark, textured grey.

School-Based Referral Program

A Joint Initiative of Miami-Dade
County Teen Court (M-DCTC)

and

Dade County Public Schools
(DCPS)

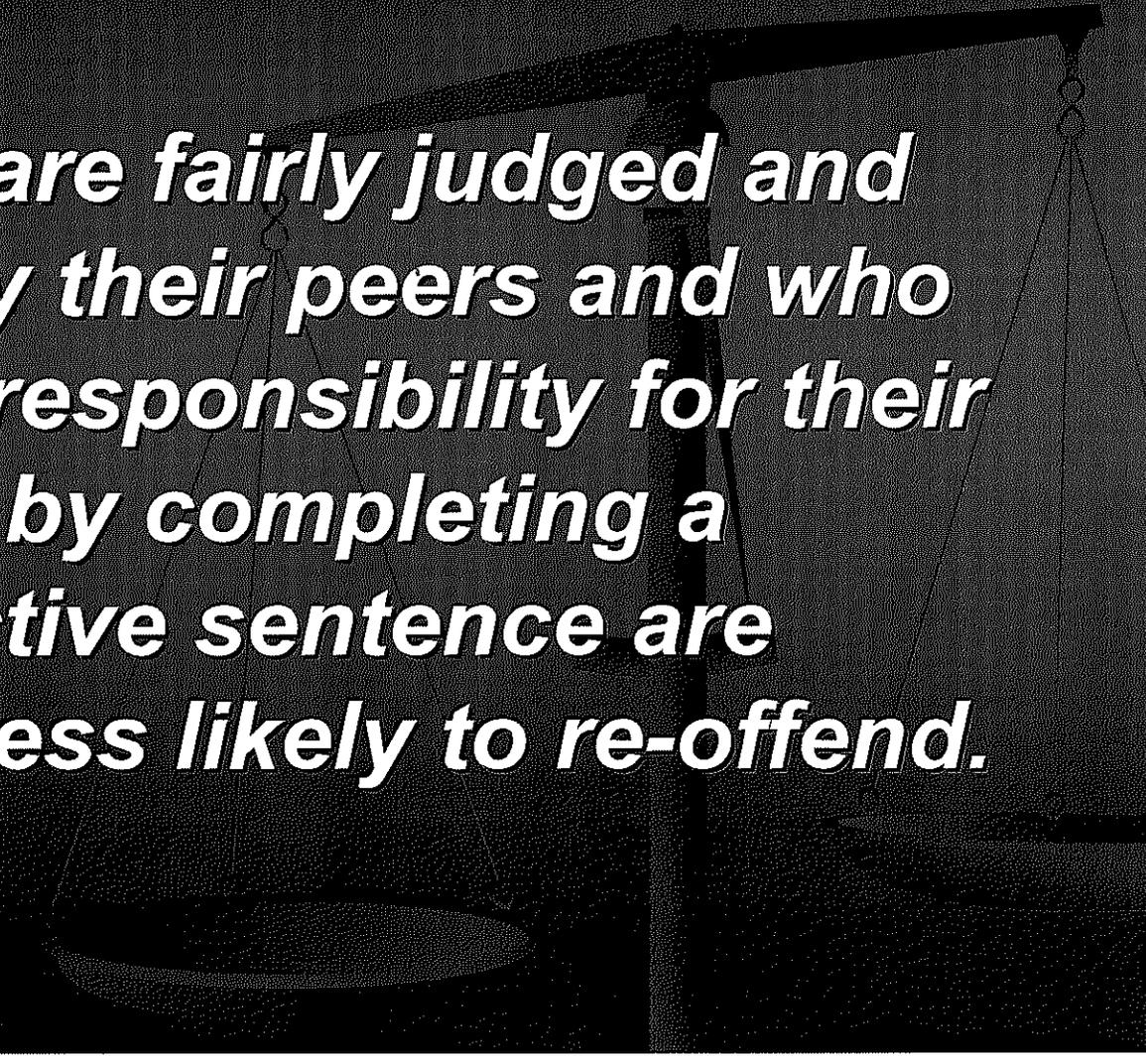
Overview:

In 2004, only 7% of Teen Courts were school-based programs.

Gives schools a unique way to address school safety and create a positive learning environment by directly involving students in the process.



PHILOSOPHY



Teens who are fairly judged and sentenced by their peers and who actively take responsibility for their actions by completing a constructive sentence are significantly less likely to re-offend.

Background/Problem

According to a 2006-07 cross-sectional study performed district-wide on DCPS, 5.5% of students enrolled during the period, dropped out.

Background/Problem (cont'd)

- Regarding suspensions, the previous academic year 2005-06, the following data was reported:

Type of Suspensions

Number

Students with
Outdoor Suspensions

28,009

Students with
Indoor Suspensions

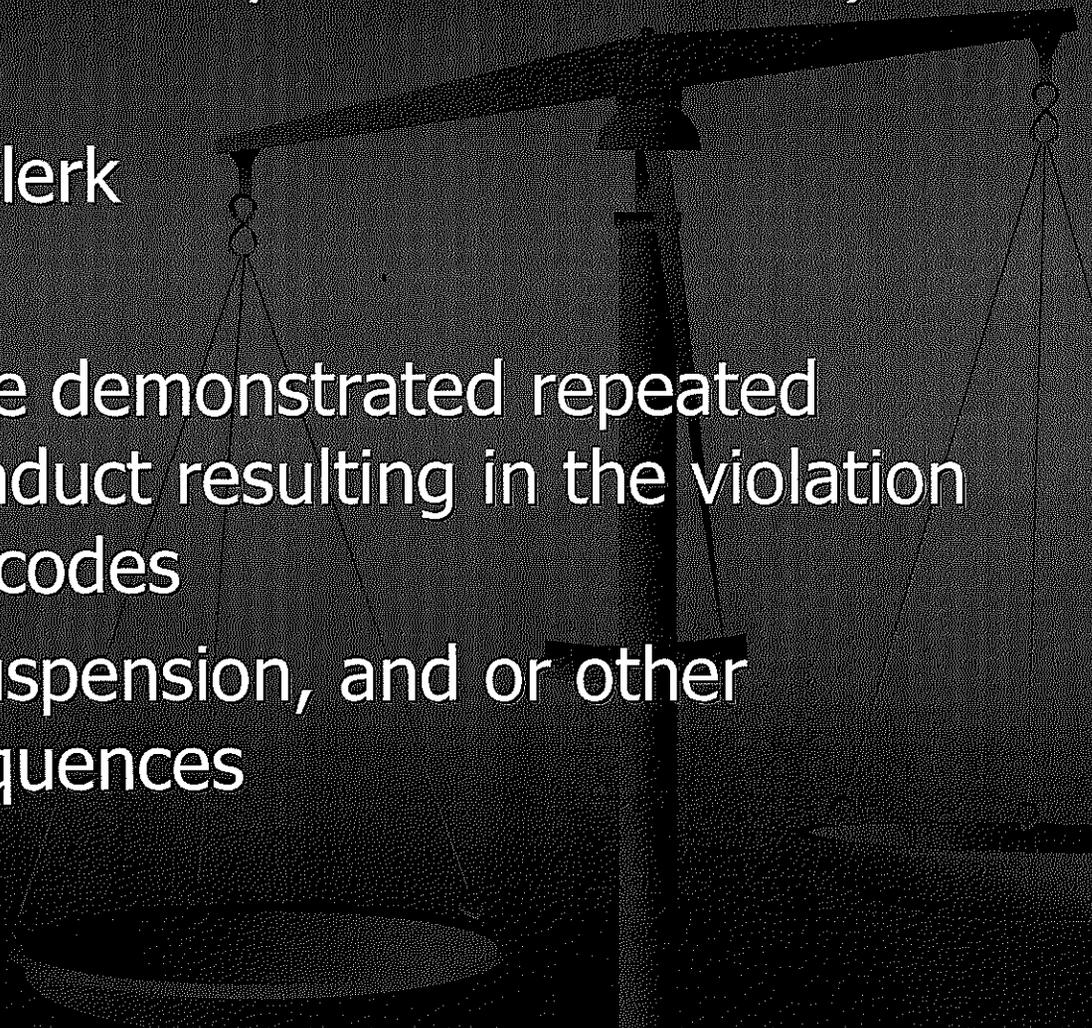
38,119

Objectives

- Increase school safety and create a positive school climate through employing solutions capable of facilitating transformational changes in youth
- Help prevent loss of valuable class time and provide administrators more options for addressing school rule violators
- Prevent and reduce student involvement in school rules violations
- Provide strategies aimed at modifying negative student behavior through educational workshops
- Focus on restorative justice and holding youth accountable for actions
- Administer fair, appropriate, & meaningful consequences through Peer-Driven methods
- Increase student's understanding of the judicial process

School-Based Referral Model

- Adult Judge (Performed by Teen Court Staff)
- Student Attorneys
- Student Bailiff & Clerk
- Student Jury
- Students who have demonstrated repeated patterns of misconduct resulting in the violation of school-rules or codes
- Students facing suspension, and or other disciplinary consequences



School-Based Referral Process

Teacher/Administrator

Referral

Disciplinary Action

Student Court Referral

Student Court Hearing

Student Court Determines Consequences

Successful Completion

Unsuccessful Completion

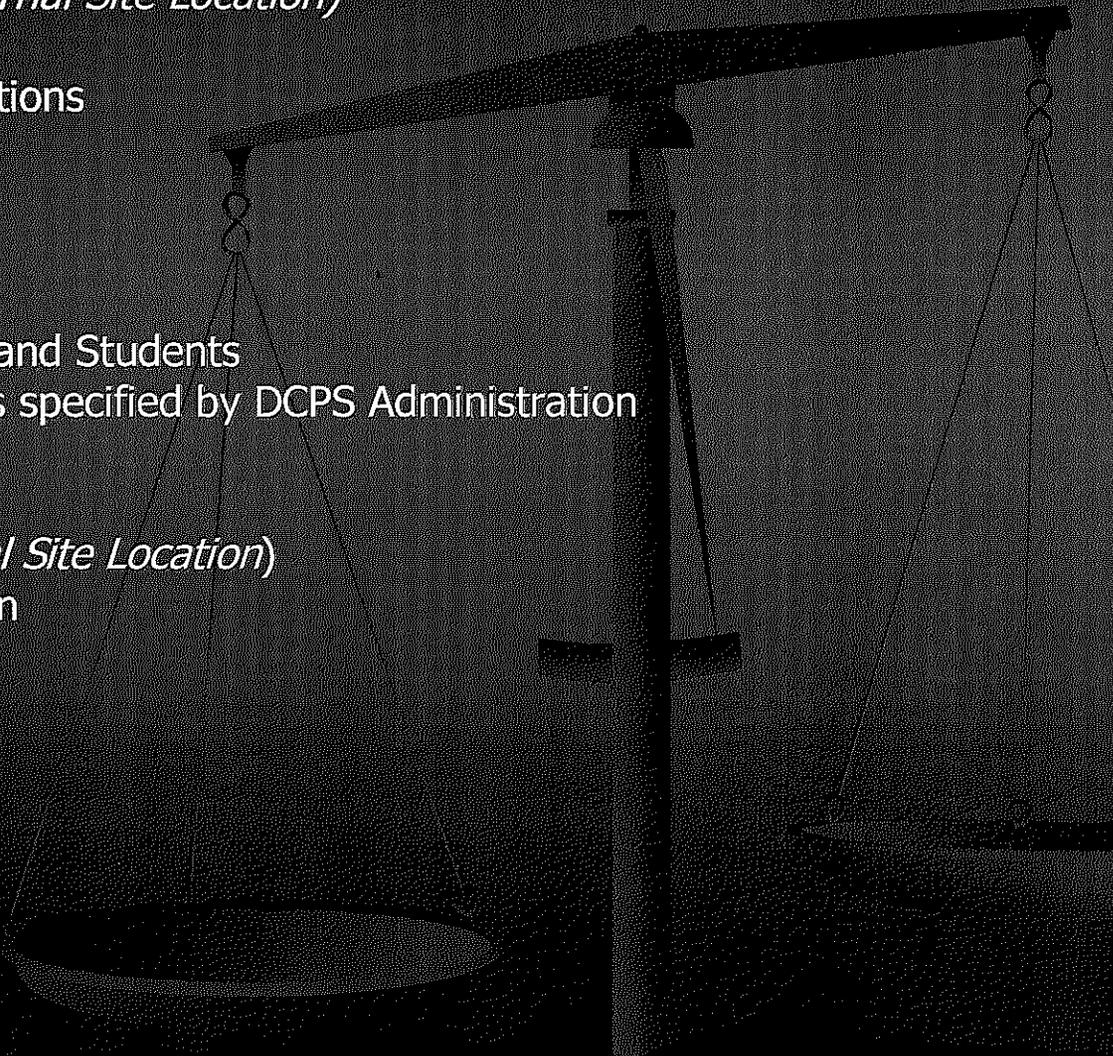
Notice Sent to Principal

Referral Back to Principal

Case Closed

Principal Determines Consequences

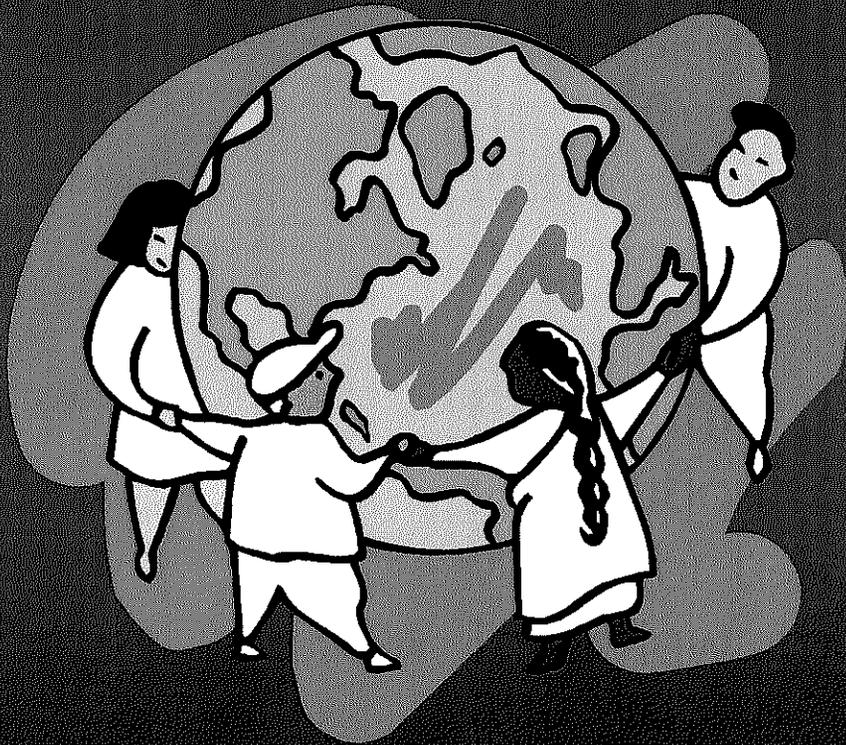
Types of Offenses



- Minor Offenses (*Student-Based Trial Site Location*)
 - Cell Phone Violations
 - Dress code or Uniform violations
 - Chronic Tardiness
 - Academic Dishonesty
 - Academic Non-compliance
 - Disrupting School Functions
 - Disrespect to Faculty, Staff and Students
 - And other code violations as specified by DCPS Administration

- Major Offenses (*Teen Court Trial Site Location*)
 - Trespassing after suspension
 - Petty Theft
 - Smoking
 - Fighting
 - Vandalism/Graffiti
 - Truancy

Consequences/ Sanctions

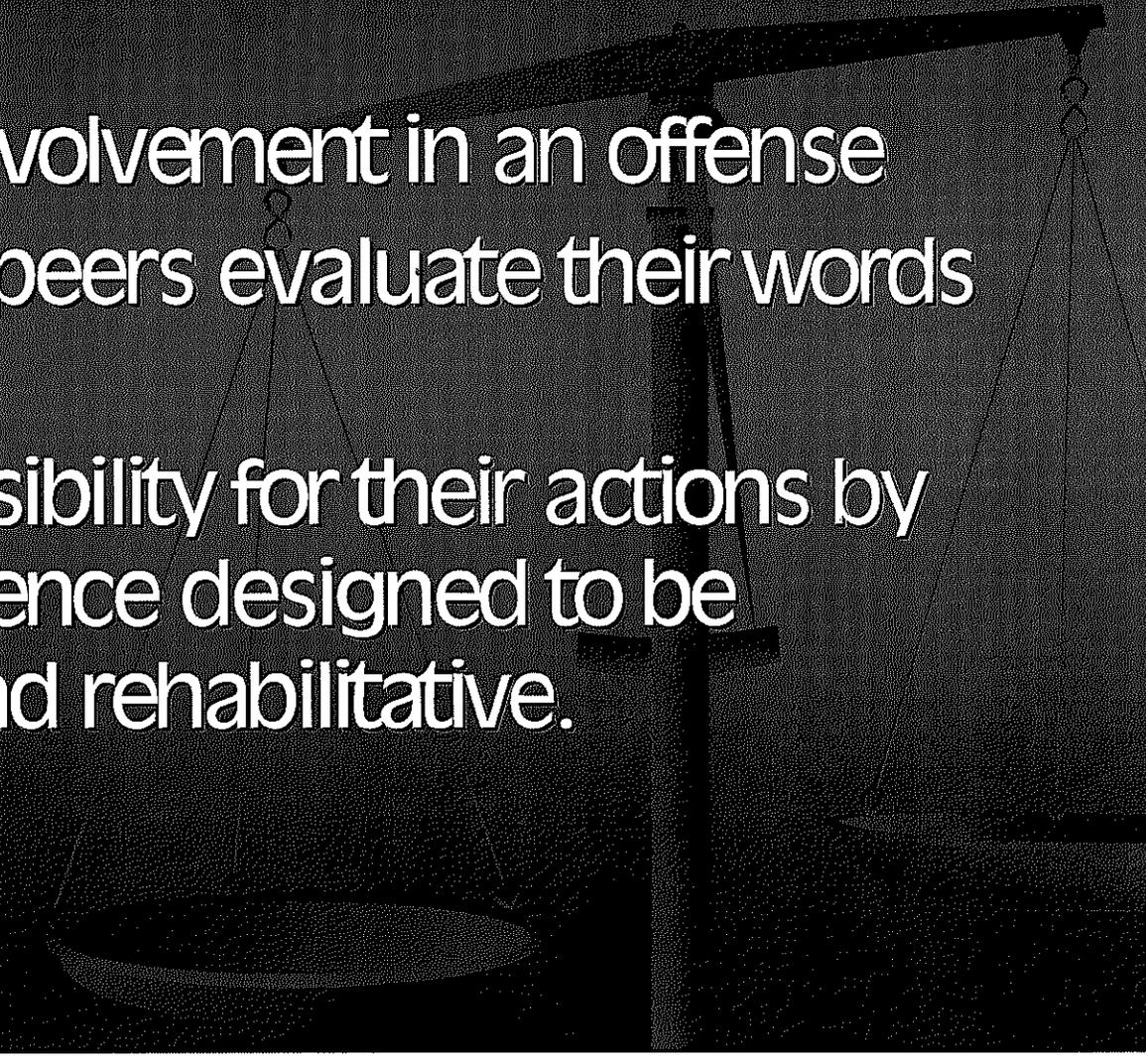


- Jury Duty
- Letter of Apology
- Public Apology
- Decision-Making, or Other Workshops
 - Anger Management
 - Conflict Resolution
- Write an essay
- Peer Mediation
- Tutoring
- Community Service
- Restitution (clean/fix/pay)
- Work for teacher etc.
- Interview those affected and write a report
- Make a poster to educate
- Kind acts toward victim

Direct Beneficiaries



- Peer Mediators
- Student Defendants



School-Based Referral Program
will empower students by providing
them an opportunity to:

- Explain their involvement in an offense
- Have a jury of peers evaluate their words and actions
- Accept responsibility for their actions by fulfilling a sentence designed to be constructive and rehabilitative.

Indirect Beneficiaries



- **School**

- Improved school safety and climate

- **Administrators**

- More discipline options
- Fewer repeat offenders

- **Community**

- Students perform community service
- Students become well-educated citizens who know how to actively participate
- Help deter youth's future involvement in negative behavior and perpetration of criminal activities against the community

References

- <http://gms.goshenschools.org/php/student.organizations/TeenCourtPres>
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- *Miami-Dade County Public Schools Assessment and Data Analysis Research Services*. February 2008, Vol. 0708.
- Orfield, G. (2004) *Dropouts in America: Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis*, Harvard Education Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, p. 306.